GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:363
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2001
DUST AND POLLUTION IN CAPITAL
RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Department of Meteorological has noticed that there has been a cocktail of dust and pollution in the capital;

(b) if, the details thereof;

(c) whether any study has been made by the Department of Meteorological to find out the reasons therefore;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the remedial measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY(SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT)

(a) to (e) : A statement is attached.

STATEMENT AS REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS
(a) To (e) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 363 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 20.11.2001 REGARDING DUST POLLUTION IN CAPITAL.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has noticed that there has been cocktail of dust and pollution in the capitalHaze, as we notice it especially during winter season, is caused by dust particles (which are coarse in size - predominantly fine soil particles) and combustion products of various kinds of fuels which are finer in size. Meteorological conditions under which their vertical dispersal is weak, like for instance, during conditions of light wind or calm, and of subsidence of air above the height of one Km or so, which are more frequent during winter season in interior continental areas like, Delhi, cause intensification of the haze.
Haze causes poor visibility and is associated with deterioration of Air Quality if there are major sources of pollution around. Its dispersal is largely mechanical and aided by a return of turbulent conditions in the atmosphere. Although Sulphur dioxide (SO2) and Nitrogen dioxide (NO2) levels in Delhi were within the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), the levels of Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM) and Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM) in Delhi exceeded these standards. The main cause of high dust pollution level in Delhi ambient air is due to vehicular pollution and dispersion of road dust.

The Government has taken various remedial measures to control air pollution in Delhi, which are given below:-

i) All the stone curshers have been closed down in Delhi.
ii) All the Hot Mix Plants and bricks kilns have been closed down in Delhi.
iii) A number of hazardous and polluting industries have been closed down in Delhi. iv) From 01.06.99 onwards, only those private (non-commercial) vehicles which conform to Bharat-I norms akin to Euro-I emission standards are being registered and with effect from 01.04.2000 Bh arat stage II norms have been enforced for private (non-commercial) vehicles.
v) Ultra low sulphur fuel (0.05% max. sulphur) has been introduced in National Capital Region Delhi with effect from 01.04.2000.

vi) Benzene content in petrol has been reduced from about 3% to about 1% in National Capital Territory of Delhi.
vii) Introduction of CNG run vehicles, i.e., Autos, Taxies, etc. with effect from 01.04.2000.
viii) Introduction of lead free petrol in Delhi with effect from 01.01.98.
ix) Since 01.04.95, only four wheeler petrol driven private (non-commercial) vehicles fitted with catalytic converter are being registered.
x) Ban has been imposed on plying commercial vehicles which are more than 15 years old with effect from 01.01.99.
xi) More than 8 years old diesel buses and all pre-1990 autos and taxies plying in Delhi have been taken off the roads with effect from 01.04.2000.
xii) Supply of only pre-mixed oil (petrol & 2T oil) to two & three wheelers has commenced in Delhi.
xiii) About 425 petrol pumps and workshops have been authorised to check the level of vehicular emissions, tuning of polluting vehicle and issue of pollution under control certificates for petrol and diesel vehicles.
xiv) The Government has constituted the `Environment Pollution (Prevention andControl) Authority for the National Capital Region Delhi` for regular monitoring of implementation of action points enlisted in the `White Paper on Pollution inDelhi with an Action Plan`

and Priority Measures approved by the Hon`ble Supreme Court, vide its order, dated 28.7.1998.
xv) A scheme for setting up of sewage treatments plants in Delhi has been taken-up.